

# Community Wellness and Prevention Injury Prevention & Safety Program

## Facts on Injuries in Washington State:

- Injuries are the leading cause of death for Washington citizens age 1-44.
- Injuries kill approximately 3,000 Washington residents and result in 35,500 hospitalizations per year.
- Over 60% of childhood deaths are due to injuries.
- Most injuries are preventable.

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for the people of Washington, ages 1-44, and remain a significant cause of death and disability throughout the life span. Injuries kill more Americans age 1-34 than all diseases combined. Injuries do not occur at random. Injuries occur in highly predictable patterns, with recognizable risk factors, among identifiable populations.

Based on data from the *Children's Safety Network Economics and Insurance Resource Center*, it costs an average of \$1,060,300 in medical and lost productivity for each injury death in Washington State in 1997 dollars.

The Injury Prevention Program provides leadership through:

- providing data to identify priority issues statewide and locally and making injury data widely available
- technical assistance to help local agencies identify and focus on priority issues, using effective strategies
- obtaining external funding to address specific injury issues at the local level
- leveraging local, state and federal resources for maximum results
- providing consultation and technical expertise to other agencies and coalitions
- supplying model programs and materials to local agencies
- involving constituents and partners
- identifying and responding to emerging injury issues
- actively participating in DOH initiatives (e.g., PHIP, Strategic Initiatives)

## Funding

Funding sources include: state general fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Preventive Health Block Grant; Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. Total funding: \$1,444,286/biennium plus \$1 million/year crime bill money, which is passed through to the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.



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## CWP Injury Prevention Program – Current Activities Unintentional Injury Prevention

### SAFE KIDS

The Injury Prevention Program is the lead on the Washington State SAFE KIDS coalition. The coalition is a statewide network of injury prevention advocates that focuses on reducing unintentional injuries in children under 14 years of age. The state coalition works with nine local coalitions to bring to the public child passenger check-up events, bicycle helmets promotions, safety fairs, and other injury prevention activities within the communities. Coalition subcommittees are under development, and will include public policy, education and others to be determined.

### Fire Injury Prevention Grant

The Injury Prevention Program has a 3-year CDC Grant to work in low income rural counties on implementation of a fire injury prevention grant. Grant activities include fire prevention education efforts, distribution and installation of smoke alarms for recipients and an evaluation component. This is the second year of the three-year

grant. The counties that we are working in are Mason, Grays Harbor, Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens.

#### Preventing Falls in Older Adults

There are more people age 65 and older in Washington hospitalized for injuries due to falling than the number of people, of all ages *combined*, who are hospitalized for motor vehicle crashes. It's that big a problem. And it is a growing problem as our population ages. The Injury Prevention Program is seeking external funding for a comprehensive, model falls prevention project in Washington.

### **Intentional Injury Prevention**

#### Youth Suicide Prevention

The Injury Prevention Program administers \$500,000 for Youth Suicide Prevention efforts statewide. Activities are carried out through a contract and are focused on youth-directed media campaigns, gatekeeper training, crisis response planning and enhancements, and building community collaboration. Partnerships with the Washington State PTA, School Psychologist Association, Washington State Mental Health Council, and School Counselor's Association have helped advance this program significantly. A true collaboration also exists with DSHS – Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to develop a training curriculum specifically for those working with incarcerated and at-risk youth. The Washington State Youth Suicide Prevention Program is recognized nationally and internationally and is often used as a template by other states.

#### Sexual Assault Prevention

The Injury Prevention Program works in partnership with the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development as well as other state and community partners to build the momentum for sexual assault prevention. Specific activities include a teen focused media campaign, targeted prevention efforts in specific communities, a technical resource center, and a full evaluation of the effect of this program. Work currently is focused on establishing this program in every community through the local sexual assault programs. Federal Crime Bill funds support these efforts.

#### Family Violence Prevention

Coordination of Department of Health Family Violence Prevention efforts occurs through an internal workgroup with representatives from 8 programs and 4 Divisions. The Injury Prevention Program is the lead convener of the group. Work by this group enhances the infrastructure that supports individual program efforts in Family Violence Prevention by identifying common needs and gaps and developing plans for meeting priorities for more effective and informed prevention efforts.

#### Safe Storage of Firearms

The Injury Prevention Program is working closely with 3 local health jurisdictions as they target campaigns to encourage safe storage of firearms in the home. At the same time, work is underway to develop a strategy to bring these efforts statewide. The Injury Prevention Program also has the responsibility for maintaining the Firearm Injury Reporting System.